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**Inventory for
Manuscript Collection
MS - 39**

New England Ship Building Company Papers

**1884-1927
Bulk: 1884-1886**

by
Elisabeth Meier
August 2018

½ box
0.2 linear feet
Accession no. 75.6

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Abstract

New England Ship Building Company (Bath, Me.)

New England Company (Bath, Me.)

Papers, 1884-1927

Bulk dates: 1884-1886

½ box

Shipyard in Bath, Maine

This collection contains deeds, stock accounts, and bills of sale related to the organization of the New England Ship Building Company in Bath, Maine. These describe the properties of three businesses, the Goss & Sawyer shipyard, the Goss, Sawyer & Packard shipyard, and the Goss Marine Iron Works, which were combined to make the new company. There is also a set of specifications for a five-masted schooner built by the New England Company in 1899 and a few unrelated papers from stevedore James C. Mulligan.

Gift of Melvin Henderson.

MS-039. Accession #75.6.

Finding aid (folder level control) in repository.

Added entries—persons:

Mulligan, James C. (1859-1928)

Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):

Goss & Sawyer (Bath, Me.)

Goss Marine Iron Works (Bath, Me.)

Goss, Sawyer & Packard (Bath, Me.)

Mary W. Bowen (Five-mast schooner)

New England Company (Bath, Me.)

New England Ship Building Company (Bath, Me.)

Added entries—key terms:

Deeds

Shipbuilding contracts

Shipyards – Maine – Bath

Shipowners

Acquisition

This collection was donated by Melvin Henderson in 1975.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on this collection.

Physical Condition

The papers are mostly in good condition. Some have traces of dormant mold, dirt, or grease.

Related Materials

There are a few documents directly related to the New England Ship Building Company in other manuscript collections. Some additional papers about the organization of the company in 1884 can be found in MS-214, and a memorandum of a construction agreement for the *Rachel W. Stevens*, a four-mast schooner built by the New England Company in 1897, is in MS-424.

Several collections have material from the interlocking businesses that formed the New England Ship Building Company. Correspondence and other papers from Goss & Sawyer are in MS-83. A ledger and cash book from the Goss Marine Iron Works are in MS-9. A ledger and a journal from the Maine Navigation Company, which assumed ownership of all the ships owned by the New England Ship Building Company in 1886, is in MS-8.

Historical Note

When the New England Ship Building Company was organized in 1884, it was the largest shipyard in Bath. It was formed in a merger of two bankrupt shipyards, Goss & Sawyer & Goss, Sawyer & Packard, which occupied adjacent lots in Bath's north end. The new company had ten building ways, a marine railway for making repairs, and, after the Goss Marine Iron Works was acquired in 1885, an engine- and boiler-making plant. The yard built a variety of vessels from full-rigged ships to schooners to tugs. Most of these were built on contract with third-party owners or on speculation; the company did not manage ships on its own account.

The New England Ship Building Company was a joint-stock company managed by many of Bath's leading businessmen, including Guy C. Goss, Elijah Sawyer, Benjamin F. Packard, Amos Haggett, Galen C. Moses, Arthur Sewall, and Thomas W. Hyde. Due to disputes among the directors, the company underwent several rapid changes in organization and leadership. In 1886, the directors formed a new company, the Maine Navigation Co., to manage all the ships formerly owned by the New England Ship Building Company and its predecessors. In 1888, after a major fire destroyed most of the shipyard buildings and three partially-built vessels, the company went bankrupt. The directors reorganized once again, sold the Goss Marine Iron Works to Bath Iron Works, and emerged as the New England Company.

Over the next twenty-two years, the New England Company steadily produced a long procession of ships, schooners barges, and other vessels. After their last vessel, the three-masted schooner *Isabel B. Wiley*, was launched in 1906, the directors leased the yard to other builders. However, shipbuilding activity on the site had largely ceased by 1910.

Scope and Content Note

The bulk of this collection is material related to the creation of the New England Ship Building Company in Bath. It includes the company's certificate of incorporation, deeds for properties and vessels sold to the new company by Goss & Sawyer, Goss, Sawyer & Packard, and the Goss Marine Iron Works, and lists of shipbuilding stock contributed by those entities. In detailing the new company's assets, these also provide a good description of the shipyards and stock on hand previously owned by Goss & Sawyer and Goss, Sawyer and Packard.

A small portion of the collection deals with business at the New England Company, which succeeded the New England Shipbuilding Company in 1888. These include specifications for a five-masted schooner (likely the *Mary W. Bowen*) and leases for the shipyard property after

the New England Company ceased building in 1906. There is also one folder with two invoices and a patent awarded to James C. Mulligan, a stevedore in Bath, from the early twentieth century.

Box and Folder List

Box	Folder
1	1 Certificate of Incorporation, 1884
	2 Deeds and leases, 1884-1908
	3 Stock accounts, 1884-1885 and undated
	4 Bills of sale, vessels purchased by the New England Company from Goss & Sawyer
	5 Vessels purchased from Goss, Sawyer & Packard
	6 Vessels purchased from other owners
	7 Vessels, construction and operation, 1884-1899
	9 James C. Mulligan papers, 1904-1927 and undated

Appendix A
Vessels owned by the New England Ship Building Co.
(as represented in MS-39)

<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>Rig</u>	<u>Sold by</u>
<i>A.F. Crockett</i>	Schooner	Goss & Sawyer
<i>B.F. Neally</i>	Schooner	Goss, Sawyer & Packard
<i>Charles Noble Simmons</i>	Schooner	Goss, Sawyer & Packard
<i>City of Philadelphia</i>	Ship	Goss & Sawyer
<i>Colin C. Baker</i>	Schooner	Goss & Sawyer
<i>Eclipse</i>	Ship	Goss & Sawyer
<i>Florence J. Allen</i>	Schooner	Goss, Sawyer & Packard
<i>Fred P. Litchfield</i>	Bark	Goss & Sawyer
<i>Fred P. Litchfield</i>	Bark	Amos B. Haggett
<i>Guy C. Goss</i>	Bark	Goss, Sawyer & Packard
<i>Harry Messer</i>	Schooner	Goss & Sawyer
<i>Hotspur</i>	Ship	James & Albert Winslow
<i>J.E. Ridgeway</i>	Ship	Goss & Sawyer
<i>J.S. Peters</i>	Bark	Goss & Sawyer
<i>John Bracewell</i>	Schooner	Goss & Sawyer
<i>Josie R. Burt</i>	Schooner	Goss, Sawyer & Packard
<i>Julia S. Bailey</i>	Schooner	Goss, Sawyer & Packard
<i>Nellie V. Rokes</i>	Schooner	Goss, Sawyer & Packard
<i>Quaker City</i>	Schooner	Goss & Sawyer
<i>Robert H. Rathborn</i>	Schooner	Goss, Sawyer & Packard
<i>Thomas B. Garland</i>	Schooner	Goss, Sawyer & Packard
<i>W.H. Besse</i>	Bark	Goss & Sawyer
<i>W.H. Smith</i>	Ship	Goss, Sawyer & Packard
<i>W.W. Crapo</i>	Bark	Goss, Sawyer & Packard
<i>Walker Armington</i>	Steamer	Goss, Sawyer & Packard
<i>William P. Hood</i>	Schooner	Goss & Sawyer
<i>Xenia</i>	Bark	Goss & Sawyer